

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1469. A bill to provide for the administration of Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2009 would help increase visitor access to the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial on the former Concord Naval Weapons Station and ensure the long-term preservation of this important World War II site. The legislation is strongly supported by the National Park Service, a coalition of more than 37 civil rights organizations in California, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the Friends of Port Chicago.

The Port Chicago Memorial marks the location of an explosion 65 years ago this week that killed and wounded numerous African American sailors and eventually paved the way for racial desegregation of the Armed Forces.

On the night of July 17, 1944, as sailors were loading ammunition at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine, a terrible explosion occurred. More than 5,000 tons of ammunition ignited, sending a blast more than 12,000 feet into the sky. The explosion killed 320 sailors, wounded hundreds more, and destroyed the surrounding town of Port Chicago. Less than a month after the explosion, survivors were ordered to resume work at a new site. Most survivors refused, citing the need for improved supervision, training, and working conditions to prevent another disaster. In response, the Navy charged 50 men with conspiring to mutiny, and all were convicted. The majority of men killed in the explosion and all those convicted of mutiny were African American.

Following the conviction, future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who at the time was a lawyer with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, took up the case. Roughly a year later, the Navy began moving towards racial desegregation, and in 1948, President Truman issued an Executive Order desegregating all of the Armed Forces and guaranteeing "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin."

In 1992, Congress authorized the creation of a National Memorial at Port Chicago. However, under its current authorities, the National Park Service still has limited ability to provide visitor access to the Memorial or to assist with the site's preservation. My bill authorizes the Interior Department to work with the City of Concord and the East Bay Regional Park District to operate a visitor's center for the Memorial, allowing veterans, students, and other visitors to learn more about the events that transpired at Port Chicago. The bill also designates the Memorial

as a unit of the National Park System, allowing the Park Service to become more actively involved in its preservation.

The bill specifically states that as much public access as possible will be provided "without interfering with military needs," meaning that the timing and extent of public visitation will be adapted to accommodate military activities when they occur near the Memorial.

Eventually, when the Secretary of Defense determines that the land is excess to military needs, the bill authorizes the Secretaries of Defense and Interior to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding leading to the transfer of the Memorial to the National Park Service.

The Port Chicago National Memorial ensures that the stories of those who served and died at Port Chicago will not be forgotten. By enabling visitors to come to this site, future generations can continue to honor and learn from these brave sailors who selflessly served our Nation and who fought to overcome the barriers of racial segregation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 212—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ANY SAVINGS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM SHOULD BE INVESTED BACK INTO THE MEDICARE PROGRAM, RATHER THAN CREATING NEW ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. JOHANNIS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 212

Whereas the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1817 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i) is projected to be insolvent by 2017; and

Whereas the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is the largest source of general revenue spending on health care for both the Federal government and the States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) any savings under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) should be invested back into the Medicare program, rather than creating new entitlement programs; and

(2) any savings under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) should be used to increase the Federal medical assistance percentage (as defined in section 1905(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b))).

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, the Medicare and Medicaid Programs are the largest single purchaser of health care in the world. These programs account for over 20 percent of all U.S. Federal Government spending. More than 1 in 5 taxpayer dollars we actually spend will go to the Medicare or Medicaid Program. By the time my chil-

dren become senior citizens, these two programs are projected to consume every dollar of tax revenue raised per year. Recently, the Medicare trustees reported that the Medicare Program is literally projected to be bankrupt by 2017, just 8 short years away. That is 2 years earlier than projected last year.

Our ability to offer financial predictions provides little consolation to senior citizens who depend on the Medicare Program to receive their medical care. For the millions of baby boomers, my generation, expecting the Medicare Program to be there for them and their future health care needs, these projections basically say that on the current course, we are out of luck.

Unfortunately, the Medicaid Program outlook is not much better, a program I am very familiar with as a prior Governor. Medicaid is the largest source of general revenue spending on health care for both the Federal Government and State governments. In fact, Medicaid represents 40 percent of Federal Government general revenue spending on health care and 41 percent of such spending by the States. That is why, as economic conditions have continued to worsen, State Medicaid budgets are increasingly in crisis. States are struggling to pay Medicaid obligations and still balance their budgets. It is a tough job—I know from personal experience—one that is not for the faint of heart.

The President is proposing, in my judgment, to exacerbate the problem by creating another government-run entitlement program. Of course, in order to pay for this new program, he has identified cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Let's be clear: We have one soon-to-be-bankrupt program that consumes a huge chunk of health care spending today, and the rushed reform would take money from it to pay for a new health care program. Seriously, this is a vicious cycle and something we would only see in Washington. The American people deserve a better effort.

I suggest that in the real world, when budgets get tight, leaders have to make very tough decisions. Programs are scrutinized with a fine-toothed comb to find out where savings can be found. If savings are identified, that money is used to shore up the programming shortfalls and to try to keep the current program viable. Medicare recipients are hoping we do that because the clock is ticking on their program. We don't see new programs created as existing programs fall deeper and deeper into the red. People and programs, they have to work together, rolling up their sleeves, prioritizing, scrutinizing every dollar in every program in order to fulfill current obligations, in order to meet the promise to those who are receiving the benefits today.

I have laid down a resolution. That is why this resolution I am submitting today is necessary, to restore some semblance of sanity to the process. Simply put, this resolution says that if we find savings within the Medicare

Program, we should put those savings back into the Medicare Program to keep the promise to our senior citizens that we will protect their program instead of creating yet another government entitlement program with the savings we have pulled from their program. It also says that if we find savings with the Medicaid Program, we should increase the Federal medical assistance percentage to help out States, to reduce the burden on State budgets; again, to fulfill the promise to those Medicaid recipients that we are serious about keeping their program going.

These are very practical, common-sense views the vast majority of Americans would agree with. Fix the programs in existence, Medicaid and Medicare, keep the promise to those receiving the benefits today, instead of taking the money from those programs to start yet another gigantic program. If we identify true savings within these current entitlement programs, I propose we fulfill that promise to the millions of Americans who are relying upon these important Federal programs. After all, it is not practical to rob Peter to pay Paul, especially when both Peter and Paul are going broke.

SENATE RESOLUTION 213—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 400TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 213

Whereas, before 1598, the Pueblos of the Rio Grande region of New Mexico inhabited the area now officially known as Santa Fe;

Whereas, from the first arrival of Spanish colonists in August of 1598, the Pueblos of the Rio Grande and adjoining regions of New Mexico provided support and sustenance to those colonists, which allowed the colonists to persevere at San Gabriel del Yunque, the first villa and capital of New Mexico located in the Pueblo lands of Ohkay Owingeh;

Whereas, on March 30, 1609, the viceroy of New Spain, Luis de Velasco II, upon receiving a royal proclamation from the King of Spain and the captain general of New Mexico, ordered Governor Pedro de Peralta to arrive in New Mexico before the end of 1609 and establish a villa at the site of what is now known as Santa Fe;

Whereas some 70 years following the establishment of the villa of Santa Fe, the Pueblos took up arms and forced the inhabitants of the villa to retreat to El Paso de Guadalupe in what was then Mexico;

Whereas, in 1692, the Spanish colonists began to return to the villa, which, although initially peaceful, resulted in several armed conflicts lasting through 1696;

Whereas, following the repopulation of Santa Fe and reinstitution of the Spanish government in New Mexico, the Pueblos and Spanish colonists found ways to engage in mutual cultural interchange;

Whereas, over the following years, and despite intermittent disputes, the colonists and the descendants of the colonists formed

alliances with the Pueblos and each accommodated the culture of the other, allowing Santa Fe to flourish;

Whereas the peaceful acceptance of each other's cultures continued through the conquest of New Mexico by the United States during the war with Mexico, contributed to the evolution of the cultural heritage of Santa Fe, and resulted in the recognition by the State and Federal governments of the sovereign rights of the Pueblos, including their right to self-government;

Whereas, during 2009 and 2010, Santa Fe will proudly observe the 400th anniversary of the settlement and subsequent founding as a villa and the multicultural heritage of the city with suitable events and observances to commemorate the occasion and to pass on to future generation the heritage of Santa Fe and the surrounding region; and

Whereas it is important that the commemoration provide a foundation for peace, hope, and collaboration for Santa Fe and its surrounding communities, and a foundation for moving forward as a flagship community within the State of New Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historical significance of the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico;

(2) recognizes the 400th anniversary of the establishment of Santa Fe; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of the City of Santa Fe, NM. This bill is cosponsored by Senator TOM UDALL and a companion bill will be introduced in the House by Representatives BEN RAY LUJÁN, MARTIN HEINRICH, and HARRY TEAGUE.

Over the next year the City of Santa Fe will commemorate the arrival of Spanish settlers and the designation of the City as the capital city of the Spanish territory now known as New Mexico. On their arrival the Spaniards found a thriving Native American culture. These Native American and Spanish cultures served to enrich each other and led the creation of a vibrant social, cultural, and financial center that made the settlement of the Western United States possible.

Despite the difficulties and periodic clashes the Spanish, Native American, and Anglo cultures in Santa Fe fought and worked to create a unique and vibrant culture that enriched all in the area. It is this confluence of cultures and the incomparable natural beauty of the area that make Santa Fe, The City Different, an American treasure that should be recognized and celebrated.

Santa Fe is celebrated worldwide for its thriving artistic community, including the Santa Fe Opera, museums, and working artists. Many of these artists were drawn to its natural beauty, the light and air of the place. It is this special something that led artists like D.H. Lawrence and Georgia O'Keefe and countless others to visit and move to the area.

We in New Mexico know how lucky we are to have Santa Fe and its treasures the entire state stands with the City to commemorate its 400th anni-

versary. That is why I am proud to introduce this resolution with the entire New Mexico delegation calling on the Congress to recognize the historical significance of Santa Fe and calling on the People of the United States to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and join my senior Senator in submitting a resolution commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city of Santa Fe, NM.

The Villa de Santa Fe was founded in 1609 by Don Pedro de Peralta as the capital of the Spanish province of New Mexico, making it the oldest capital city in the U.S.

The city of Santa Fe is blessed with a diversity of cultures, rooted in its remarkable history. At the time Spanish colonists arrived in New Mexico, they found many thriving Pueblo communities, including in the area around what was to become Santa Fe. Although there were conflicts between the two people, they learned from each other, shared knowledge, traditions, and skills, while preserving their own unique cultures that persist to this day. Descendants of the original Spanish colonists can still be found in Santa Fe, and the nearby Pueblos continue to enrich the city and the region today. The city continued to evolve and grow through history with influences from the Mexican Revolution and characters from the western American frontier such as Billy the Kid.

With the breathtaking landscape of the high desert, snow-capped Sangre de Cristo Mountains as a backdrop, and well-preserved historical landmarks including the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and the Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe has become a major tourist destination and an inspiration to many artists, including Georgia O'Keefe and D.H. Lawrence.

Today, Santa Fe is a modern American city, steeped in its rich history, arts, culture, and traditions. It is a treasure for the state of New Mexico and the Nation. I hope my colleagues will join us in honoring its past and celebrating the future of the "City Different."

SENATE RESOLUTION 214—CONGRATULATING LUCAS GLOVER ON WINNING THE 2009 UNITED STATES OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 214

Whereas, on June 22, 2009, Lucas Glover, a native of Greenville, South Carolina, won the United States Open golf tournament at the Bethpage Black Course in Farmingdale, New York;

Whereas past United States Open champions include some of the greatest players in golf history, such as Bobby Jones, Walter